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EXAMINER

BASS, JON M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3639

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/626,954	RYAN, FREDERICK W.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jon Bass	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2000.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

Notice to Applicant

1. In the amendment filed on September 29, 2005 the following has occurred: Claims 1-26 and 28-44 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 9 and 15 have been amended.
2. Claims 2-3, 5-8, 10-14, 16-18, 21-26, 28-44 have not been amended and are rejected for the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (dated 01/13/2003), and incorporated herein. Further reasons appear herein below.
3. Claim 1 has been amended to now recite "... a method of operating a postage metering system for printing a postage indicium subsidized by a mail campaign sender, [{col.5, lines 11-13}, Providers logo and field (mail campaign), for use with a business reply mail piece, the method comprising the step (s) of", [{Col.5, lines 11-33}]:  
  
Transmitting a registration ID number, provided by the mail campaign sender to a user, from the postage metering system to a data center, the registration ID number being associated wit a delivery address previously defined by a

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mail campaign sender: and discloses in human readable form to the user of the postage metering system,

Receiving postage indicium information at the postage metering system from the data center, the postage indicium information generated using the registration ID number and including data relating to the delivery address; and

Printing the postage indicium on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system using the postage indicium information.

As per this limitation, Heiden teaches that a service provider ID in bar-coded format is attached to the mail piece for identification purposes (registration ID). The device ID represents the unique device identification that consists of Provider identification, [{col.5, lines 11-36}]. Heiden further teaches in {col.8, lines 24-27 and figure 5}, that generating and printing of indicia. Heiden in {col.5, lines 11-13} teaches that a provider (which is a campaign sender) have fields where the logos are placed.

5. Claim 4 has been amended to now recite "... a method of operating a data center for generating postage indicium information for use with printing a postage indicium in a

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business reply mail piece, the method comprising the steps (s) of:

Receiving a delivery address from a mail campaign sender corresponding to a mail campaign of which the business reply mail piece is a part, [{see fig 5, col.8, lines 24-27}]

Generating a registration ID number corresponding to the delivery address, [{col.5, lines 11-33, 61-63; col.6, lines 19-28}];

Providing a registration ID number to the mail campaign sender, (see fig 5);

Establishing a transaction session with a postage metering system, {see id);

Receiving the registration ID number from the postage metering system, where the registration ID number and deliver address in human readable form were,

previously provided by the mail campaign sender to a user of the postage metering system, (see col.8);

Generating the postage indicium information using the registration ID number and data relating to the delivery address, (see Supra col.8); and

Transmitting the postage indicium information to the postage metering system for use in printing the postage

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indicium on the business reply mail piece, (see Supra col.8).

The rejections remain due to the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action (dated 01/13/2003).

6. Claim 9 has been amended to now recite, "...operating a business reply mail processing system by a mail campaign sender, the method comprising the steps of:

Providing a delivery address, associated with a particular mail campaign which includes a business reply mail piece, to a data center, (see col.5, lines 11-34; col.8, lines 24-27);

Receiving from the data center registration ID number associated with the delivery address, (see Id) and

Supplying the registration ID number the business reply mail piece and delivery address in human readable form, to a user of a postage metering system, [{col.3, lines 39-40}, postage meter] where the registration ID number is used by the user to print a postal indicium on the business reply mail piece including data relating to the delivery address, (see fig 5 and Supra col.8).

The rejections remain due to the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action (dated 01/13/2003).

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7. Claim 15 has been amended to now recite, "... a memory device in operative communication with a computing system, the memory device comprising:

a plurality of mail campaign sender accounts associated with respective mail campaign senders, where each of the plurality of mail campaign sender accounts includes a registration ID number associated with a delivery address and a particular mail campaign of which a business reply mail piece is a part, respectively said registration ID number is used to generate a postage indicium, (see col.5, lines 11-33, 61-63; col.6 lines 19-28; col.8, lines 24-47) and where said postage indicium and delivery address in human readable, form are provided to a postage metering system, [{col.3, lines 39-40}, postage meter].

The rejections remain due to the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action (dated 01/13/2003).

***Response to Amendment***

8. Applicant's arguments filed on March 17, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants arguments will be addressed herein below in the order in which they appear in the response.

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(A) In regard to claims 1, 4, 9 and 15, the applicant argues that Heiden fails to teach the delivery address in human readable form to the user of the postage metering system.

(A') In response to the Applicant's arguments, the examiner respectfully submits that Sansone (2003/0192944) recites in on page 1, 0003 that a human readable representation of data is displayed.

As such the applicants remarks with regard to the application of Heiden to the amended claims are moot in light of the inclusion of the teachings of Heiden addressed in the above and previous Office Action.

Below is an updated version of the Office Action. Since new matter has been added, claims 1, 4, 9 and 15 require a new prior art. Sansone (2003/0192944) has been used to reject claims 1, 4, 9 and 15.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth



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in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1-6, 9-12, 15-16, 22, 25, 28 31,34,36,39,42**  
**rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over**  
**Heiden (6,055,520) in view of Ronald Sansone et al**  
**(2003/0192944) .**

**As Per Claim 1:**

As for Claim 1, Heiden et al. discloses a method comprising the step(s) of:

transmitting a registration ID number, provided by a mail campaign sender to a user, from the postage metering system to a data center, the registration ID number being associated with a delivery address previously defined by the mail campaign sender (see col. 5, lines 11-33, 61-63; col. 6, lines 19-28);

receiving postage indicium information at the postage metering system from the data center, the postage indicium information generated using the registration ID number and

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including data relating to the delivery address (see Id.);  
and

printing the postage indicium on the business reply  
mail piece at the postage metering system using the postage  
indicium information (see col. 8, lines 24-47; Fig. 5).

Heiden doesn't explicitly disclose in human readable  
form to the user of the postage metering system.

Ronald Sansone discloses on page 1,0003, that the  
information based indicia consist of two-dimensional bar  
code in human and machine-readable form. The device  
performs the function of postage meter register. It would  
have been obvious to One of ordinary skill in the art at  
the time the invention was made would have found it obvious  
to modify a postage metering system for printing indicia  
from a mail campaigner attached to a registration ID number  
that is in human readable form. Sansone provides motivation  
by providing postage indicia that has human readable  
information.

**As for Claim 2,**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method, including  
the step(s) of:

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printing the delivery address on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system, where the delivery address has been selected, by the data center from a plurality of delivery addresses previously defined by the mail campaign sender, according to parameters associated with the user of the postage metering system that were previously established by the mail campaign sender (see Supra columns 5-6, 8).

**As for Claim 3:**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of:

receiving a subsidy provided by the data center to the user of the postage metering system for mailing the business reply mail piece (see Fig. 5 for the PSD in connection with the third party; Supra column 8).

**As Per Claim 4:**

As for Claim 4, Heiden et al. discloses a method comprising the step(s) of:

receiving a delivery address from a mail campaign sender corresponding to a mail campaign of which the

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business reply mail piece is a part (see Fig. 5; column 8, lines 24-47);

generating a registration ID number corresponding to the delivery address (see col. 5, lines 11-33, 61-63; col. 6, lines 19-28);

providing the registration ID number to the mail campaign sender (see Fig. 5);

establishing a transaction session with a postage metering system (see Id.);

receiving the registration ID number from the postage metering system, where the registration ID number was previously provided by the mail campaign sender to a user of the postage metering system (see Supra Fig. 5 and column 8);

generating the postage indicium information using the registration ID number and data relating to the delivery address; and

transmitting the postage indicium intonation to the postage metering system for use in printing the postage indicium on the business reply mail piece (see Supra column 8).

Heiden doesn't explicitly disclose in human readable form to the user of the postage metering system.

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Ronald Sansone discloses on page 1,0003, that the information based indicia consist of two-dimensional bar code in human and machine-readable form. The device performs the function of postage meter register. It would have been obvious to One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify a postage metering system for printing indicia from a mail campaigner attached to a registration ID number that is in human readable form. Sansone provides motivation by providing postage indicia that has human readable information.

**As for Claim 5**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of: performing address hygiene on the delivery address; and transmitting a hygiened addressed to the sender (see Fig. 5 and col. 8, lines 24-47).

**As for Claim 6,**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of: providing a subsidy to the user for mailing the business reply mail piece; and charging the subsidy to the

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mail campaign sender (see the arrangement between the third party (mail campaign sender) and the user in Fig. 5; PSD in communication with the mail campaign sender).

**As Per Claim 9:**

As for Claim 9, Heiden et al. discloses a method comprising the step(s) of:

providing a delivery address, associated with a particular mail campaign which includes a business reply mail piece, to a data center (see col. 5, line 11-34; col. 8, lines 24-47);

receiving from the data center a registration ID number associated with the delivery address (see Id.); and

supplying the registration ID number and the business reply mail piece to a user, where the registration ID number is used by the user to print a postal indicium on the business reply mail piece including data relating to the delivery address (see Fig. 5 and Supra column 8).

Heiden doesn't explicitly disclose in human readable form to the user of the postage metering system.

Ronald Sansone discloses on page 1,0003, that the information based indicia consist of two-dimensional bar code in human and machine-readable form. The device

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performs the function of postage meter register. It would have been obvious to One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify a postage metering system for printing indicia from a mail campaigner attached to a registration ID number that is in human readable form. Sansone provides motivation by providing postage indicia that has human readable information.

**As for Claim 10**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of:

receiving from the data center a new hygiened address representing a version of the delivery address prior to supplying the registration ID number and the business reply mail piece to the user, where the new hygiened address is to be used as the delivery address (see Supra columns 5-6, 8).

**As for Claim 11,**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of: printing the registration ID number on the business reply mail piece (see Fig. 5).

**As for Claim 12:**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of:

authorizing the data center to provide a subsidy to the user for mailing the business reply mail piece (see Fig. 5 the arrangement between PSD and the data center); and

authorizing the data center to charge the subsidy to the mail campaign sender.

**As Per Claim 15:**

Heiden et al. discloses a memory device accessible by a computing system, the memory device comprising:

a plurality of mail campaign sender accounts (PSD in Fig. 5) associated with respective mail campaign senders, where each of the plurality of mail campaign sender accounts includes a registration ID number associated with a delivery address and a particular mail campaign of which a business reply mail piece is a part, respectively, and where said registration ID number is used to generate a postage indicium (see col. 5, lines 11-33, 61-63; col. 6, lines 19-28; col. 8, lines 24-47).



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Heiden doesn't explicitly disclose in human readable form to the user of the postage metering system.

Ronald Sansone discloses on page 1,0003, that the information based indicia consist of two-dimensional bar code in human and machine-readable form. The device performs the function of postage meter register. It would have been obvious to One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify a postage metering system for printing indicia from a mail campaigner attached to a registration ID number that is in human readable form. Sansone provides motivation by providing postage indicia that has human readable information.

**As for Claim 16**

Heiden et al. further discloses the memory device, wherein:

at least one of the plurality of mail campaign sender accounts further includes an indication associated with the registration ID number to determine whether or not the respective mail campaign sender authorizes a subsidy to a user for mailing the business reply mail piece (see Fig. 5 and Supra column 8).

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**As for Claim 22**

Heiden et al. disclose the method including the step(s) of:

receiving a subsidy provided by the data center to the user of the postage metering system for mailing the business reply mail piece (see Supra column 8).

**As for Claim 25**

Heiden et al. disclose the method including the step(s) of:

receiving a subsidy provided by the data center to the user of the postage metering system for mailing the business reply mail piece (see Supra column 8).

**As for Claims 28-29**

Heiden further discloses the method, including the step(s) of:

storing a plurality of delivery addresses previously defined by the mail campaign sender; and

selecting the delivery address for the business reply mail piece from the plurality of delivery addresses according to parameters, previously established by the mail campaign sender, associated with the user of the postage metering system (see Supra columns 5-6).

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**As Per Claim 30-31:**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step of:

Providing a notification to the mail campaign sender when business reply mail piece is posted by the user (see Fig. 2 and col.6, lines 35-67).

**As for Claim 34**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of:

defining a plurality of delivery addresses; and  
establishing parameters for use in determining a selected one of the plurality of delivery address to use as the delivery address on the business reply mail piece, where the parameters are associated with the user of the postage metering system (see Supra columns 5-6).

**As for Claim 36**

Heiden et al. further discloses the memory device, wherein:

some of the plurality of mail campaign sender accounts further include: (i) a plurality of delivery addresses; and  
(ii) parameters for use in determining a selected one of the plurality of delivery address to use as the delivery

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address on the business reply mail piece, where the parameters are associated with the user of the postage metering system (see Supra columns 5-6).

**As for Claim 39**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of:

    sending a message to the mail campaign sender indicating that the user has dispatched the business reply mail piece (see col. 6, lines 35-67).

**As for Claim 42:**

Heiden et al. further discloses the method including the step(s) of:

    receiving a message from the data center indicating that the user has dispatched the business reply mail piece (see Supra column 6).

6)    **Claims 7-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21, 23-24, 26, 32-33, 35, 37-38, 40-41 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heiden et al. in view of Sasone (2003/0192944), in further view of Allott, III (US 6,121,565).**

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Heiden et al. discloses the method and device as recited above, but does not expressly disclose the invention further comprising:

receiving an expiration date from the mail campaign sender; and

providing a warning to for attempting to reply after the expiration date.

Sansone teaches discloses on page 1,0003, that the information based indicia consist of two-dimensional bar code in human and machine-readable form.

Allott, III teaches, for a method of delivery a business reply mail piece using expiring indicia, that the method comprises:

receiving an expiration date from the mail campaign sender; and

providing a warning to for attempting to reply after the expiration date.

Since Allott and Heiden et al. and Sansone are from the same field of endeavor, the purpose disclosed by Allott would have been well recognized in the pertinent art of Heiden et al and Sansone.

Accordingly, it would have been further obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary

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skill in the art, to utilize the delivery system using expiring indicia with a manifested time in the mail delivery system of Heiden et al., While Sansone teaches a human readable form to the user of the postage metering system as taught by Allott, for the purpose of providing extremely effective method of decreasing the time between billing and remittance by positively reinforcing early return of business reply mail piece and determining the address information in human readable form.

#### **Conclusion**

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory

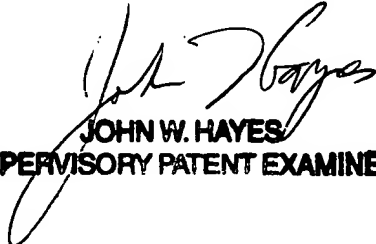
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action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-271-9197 (toll free).

  
**JOHN W. HAYES**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**